

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method comprising the steps of:  
receiving a first data stream of multimedia data, wherein the multimedia data includes a first protocol and further wherein the first protocol is unknown;  
determining, based upon a first portion of the first data stream, the first protocol of the multimedia data.
2. The method as in Claim 1, wherein the first protocol is one of a set of predefined protocols comprising MPEG-2, Direct TV, and DVD protocols.
3. The method as in Claim 1, further comprising:  
storing a second portion of the first data stream in memory after the step of determining the first protocol.
4. The method as in Claim 3, wherein the second portion of the first data stream is received after the first portion of the first data stream.
5. The method as in Claim 3, wherein the second portion of the first data stream includes the first portion of the first data stream.
6. The method as in Claim 3, further comprising generating a database based on the second portion.
7. The method as in Claim 6, further comprising parsing the second portion of the first data stream to determine a first set of descriptors associated with the first data stream.
8. The method as in Claim 7, wherein the first set of descriptors includes a descriptor from the set of descriptors comprising a network identifier, multiplex information, and program information.

9. The method as in Claim 8, wherein multiplex information includes transport stream identifiers and program identifiers.

10. The method as in Claim 8, wherein the program information includes program numbers, program recovery clock identifiers, video data identifiers and audio data identifiers.

11. The method as in Claim 8, wherein the set of descriptors further includes elementary stream information and closed captioning information.

12. The method as in Claim 11, wherein the elementary stream information includes data stream types and elementary stream identifiers.

13. The method as in Claim 1, wherein the memory includes a frame buffer.

14. The method as in Claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a second data stream of multimedia data, different from the first data stream, wherein the multimedia data of the second data stream includes a second protocol, different from the first protocol and further wherein the second protocol is unknown;

determining, based upon a first portion of the second data stream, the second protocol of the multimedia data of the second data stream.

15. A multimedia processing system comprising:

a first memory;

a second memory;

a microcode engine to:

receive a first transport stream;

identify a packet type associated with said first transport stream;

store said first transport stream in said first memory; and

a stream engine to store said packet type in said second memory.

16. The multimedia processing system as in Claim 15, wherein said first memory and said second memory are part of a same memory.

17. The multimedia processing system as in Claim 16, wherein said first memory and said second memory are part of a frame buffer.

18. The multimedia processing system as in Claim 15, wherein the first memory and the second memory are part of separate memories.

19. The multimedia processing system as in Claim 15, wherein said second memory includes a database of descriptors used to identify data of the first transport stream.

20. The multimedia processing system as in Claim 19, wherein said stream engine further used to parse data of said first transport stream stored in first memory to identify said descriptors.

21. The multimedia processing system as in Claim 20, wherein said descriptors include descriptors to identify network information, multiplex information and program information.

22. The multimedia processing system as in Claim 15, further comprising a multimedia tuner to:

- receive a network source signal;
- identify a network type; and
- provide said first transport stream based on said network type.

23. The multimedia processing system as in Claim 22, wherein said stream engine is further used to store said network type in said second memory.

24. The multimedia processing system as in Claim 15, wherein said stream engine further used to identify properties of a second received transport stream based on said second memory; and

set said microcode engine to process said second received transport stream based on said properties.

25. A method comprising the steps of:

receiving a multiplexed data stream of multimedia data, wherein the multimedia data includes an unknown protocol;

attempting to process the multiplexed data stream based on a first protocol;

when the step of attempting to process the multiplexed data stream based on the first protocol is successful:

storing data associated with the multiplexed data stream of multimedia data in memory;

associating the first protocol with the multiplexed data stream;

when the step of attempting to process the multiplexed data stream based on the first protocol is not successful:

attempting to process the multiplexed data stream based on a second protocol.

26. The method as in Claim 25, wherein memory includes a frame buffer.

27. The method as in Claim 25, wherein successful processing of the multiplexed data stream includes locking to the multiplexed data stream.

28. The method as in Claim 25, wherein successful processing of the multiplexed data stream includes identifying data packets of the multiplexed data stream.

29. A method of identifying a multiplexed data stream of multimedia data comprising:

- receiving a first portion of the multiplexed data stream of multimedia data, wherein the multimedia data includes an unknown protocol;
- determining a packet length associated with the first portion of the multiplexed data stream;
- when the packet length is one of a first set of packet lengths, associating a second portion of the multiplexed data stream with a first protocol;
- and
- when the packet length is one of a second set of packet lengths, associating the second portion of the multiplexed data stream with a second protocol.

30. The method as in Claim 29, wherein the step of determining a packet length includes identifying a value of a packet length identifier associated with the first portion of the multiplexed data stream.

31. The method as in Claim 29, wherein the first set of packet lengths includes 188 bytes, 204 bytes or 208 bytes.

32. The method as in Claim 29, wherein the second set of packet lengths includes 130 bytes.

33. The method as in Claim 29, wherein the first protocol includes a Motion Picture Experts Group 2 transport packet protocol.

34. The method as in Claim 29, wherein the second protocol includes Digital Satellite System protocols.

35. The method as in Claim 29, further including the step of associating the second portion of the multiplexed data stream with a third protocol when the packet length is not of the first set of packet lengths or the second set of packet lengths.

36. The method as in Claim 35, wherein the third protocol includes Motion Picture Experts Group 1 protocols.

37. A method of identifying a multiplexed data stream of a multimedia stream having an unknown protocol comprising:

- receiving a first portion and a second portion of the multiplexed data stream;
- identifying a value of the first portion of the multiplexed data stream;
- receiving a third portion of the multiplexed data stream;
- when the value of the second portion of the multiplexed data stream is of a first value, processing the third portion of the multiplexed data stream using a first protocol; and
- when the value of the second portion of the multiplexed data stream is of a second value, processing the third portion of the multiplexed data stream using a second value.

38. The method as in Claim 37, wherein the first portion of the multiplexed data stream includes a pack start code identifier.

39. The method as in Claim 38, wherein the value of the first portion includes a hexadecimal value of 0x000001BA.

40. The method as in Claim 39, wherein the first value includes a binary value of 01.

41. The method as in Claim 40, wherein the first protocol includes a Motion Picture Experts Group 2 pack protocol data.

42. The method as in Claim 41, wherein the step of processing the third portion of the multiplexed data stream using the first protocol includes parsing Motion Pictures Experts Group 2 pack data associated with the third portion.

43. The method as in Claim 39, wherein the second value includes a binary value of 0010.

44. The method as in Claim 43, wherein the first protocol includes a Motion Picture Experts Group 1 pack protocol data.

45. The method as in Claim 44, wherein the step of processing the third portion of the multiplexed data stream using the first protocol includes parsing Motion Pictures Experts Group 1 pack data associated with the third portion.